

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany/GDR

DATE DISTR 23 JAN 52

SUBJECT Disagreement between SED and Moscow on  
East-West Question

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1. The SED leadership has been put into a very embarrassing situation by new instructions from Moscow on the East-West question. The party hierarchy is uncertain in whether these instructions are of a tactical or long-range nature. The new Soviet orders arrive after the party purge, begun at the end of 1950, and the attendant anti-American campaign had reached an evidently successful climax with the Free German Youth rally in Berlin in August 1951. According to the source, Paul Merker and other victims of the purge have been or are about to be rehabilitated as a result of these orders.

2. The new Moscow instructions demand that the most earnest efforts be given to the Grotewohl campaign for the reunification of Germany. The SED is well aware that this is not a new propaganda offensive, but a serious attempt to force the reunification of Germany, even if it should involve a loss of power for the SED. A series of reports on the "disintegration of the Bonn Government" has been channeled to the central organs of the SED, via Moscow, to bolster the party's self-reliance. Only a few energetic steps on the part of the SED, these reports say, are necessary to bring about an all-German election for the creation of a National Assembly, restoring Berlin as the capital of Reunited Germany.

3. This Soviet analysis of the situation is taken by the experienced men around Walter Ulbricht as a serious threat of surrender of the entire SED apparatus and the SED Government in East Germany as a price for the Russian appeasement towards the West. Pessimistic speculation has taken place as to the amount of power and influence the SED could retain in a united Germany after having surrendered its governmental powers. On the other hand the realists around Ulbricht point out that a campaign for the reunification of Germany has only a very slight prospect of success because of the opposition to it by the western powers and by the Roman Catholic groups in Germany. They admit, on the other hand, that a campaign along the lines of the Grotewohl letter, if carried too far, can only lead to the denormalization of the East German regime. The Ulbricht group thus seek the new Moscow instructions with reports to Moscow on the strength of the American position in West Germany; they carry out the Grotewohl campaign with apparent loyalty, but behind the scenes they combat it with all the means and methods of Communist intrigue.

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4. Source states in summation that a concealed but violent conflict rages between the East German SED leadership and the Moscow Politburo. Indeed, the great praise which had to be given a few weeks ago to Otto Grotewohl and his "successful anti-American campaign" has already led to demoralization and a loosening of the Moscow grip in East Germany.\* Whatever the Ulbricht regime has gained through the Free German Youth meeting in Berlin, and through similar propaganda successes, is now being lost through the destruction of the hopes which Ulbricht's regime expected to realize within a short time. Many illusions have also arisen in bourgeois and Social Democratic circles in East Germany, since the information has leaked out that the Politburo in Moscow is perhaps prepared to sacrifice the SED Government for the sake of an international maneuver, planned on a continental scale.

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~~Comment: Source does not explain how praise for Grotewohl has led to demoralization.~~

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